

Cattle Producer Update



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

September 2002

Current Status

California has one dairy herd affected with bovine TB. More than 70,502 cattle in California have been tested for exposure to TB since this investigation began. To date, there is no evidence to suggest that infection has spread from this herd.

Cumulative Since May 13, 2002	
Herds tested	50
Herds retested	1
Number of herds positive and quarantined	1
Animals tested	70,502
Initial TB skin test responders	1,580
Reactors	115
Suspects	124
Reactors & suspects eliminated	312
Trace outs eliminated	220
Exposed animals eliminated from quarantined herd	485
Average field personnel assigned on a daily basis	21

Background

In May 2002, bovine TB was confirmed in a Tulare County dairy herd. The CDFA, USDA and the industry established a task force and worked together with the herd owner and his veterinarian to control and eradicate the disease from the herd. The work is ongoing.

The California Department of Health Services and Tulare County Health Department representatives addressed public health issues and coordinated TB testing for the dairy's employees.

What is California Doing to Eradicate the Disease?

- The affected herd is under state quarantine. The cattle are tested for TB at two-month intervals and those testing positive are removed from the herd

- Cattle are only allowed to leave the affected herd to be slaughtered at a USDA inspected facility where enhanced inspection is conducted to ensure they are not infected with TB

- All cattle sold from or associated with the affected herd over the last five years are being traced and tested
- Efforts to purchase and slaughter all cattle that left the affected herd are underway
- Calves from the affected herd are raised away from the adult cattle and are fed only pasteurized products
- Areas on the affected premises that may be contaminated with TB bacteria are cleaned and disinfected

As a precaution and to protect other states, all dairy breeding animals leaving California that are more than six months of age require a negative TB test within 30 days of movement.

At this time, this requirement does not apply to beef cattle.

Potential Impact for California's TB-free status

California's bovine TB-free status has not changed at this time. There are various status levels that can be assigned to a state under the USDA tuberculosis eradication program: accredited free, modified accredited advanced, modified accredited, accreditation preparatory or non-accredited.

For California to maintain its accredited-free TB status, the USDA currently requires that the affected herd be depopulated and that CDFA complete a full review showing that there is no evidence of TB spread in California. The USDA is currently reviewing federal regulations that are used to determine a state's TB status when TB is detected, as explained in the August issue.

If the state is unable to satisfy these requirements, California's status could be changed to a Modified Accredited Advanced status which would require all

California breeding cattle to have official identification and a negative TB test within 60 days of interstate movement OR originate from a TB accredited-free herd (mandatory annual TB testing) OR move directly to slaughter.

If the USDA recommends a change in California's status, it may occur later this year or early next year.

CDFA Animal Health Branch Offices

Sacramento (HQ)	916-654-1447
Modesto	209-491-9350
Ontario	909-947-4462
Redding	530-225-2140
Tulare	559-685-3500

www.cdfa.ca.gov

CDFA Milk and Dairy Foods Control Offices

Stockton	209-466-7186
Oakland	510-622-4810
Fresno	559-445-5506
Ontario	909-923-9929

United States Department of Agriculture
916-857-6170 or 877-741-3690

Enhancing Communication with Producers

The *Cattle Producer Update* is designed to offer current information for producers about California's on-going bovine TB investigation. For more comprehensive information, contact the CDFA Headquarters Office at (916) 654-1447, a CDFA field office or check our web page at www.cdfa.ca.gov.
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